## Message Text

## UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DAMASC 00823 051455Z ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SSM-05 IO-13 AID-05 /102 W

-----051508Z 071141 /43

R 051356Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1629

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

USIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR

**UNCLAS DAMASCUS 823** 

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SY

SUBJECT: SYRIAN MEDIA SUMMARY FOR FEB. 5, 1977

1. MEDIA LED WITHIMPLEMENTATION EGYPTIAN-SYRIAN UNIFIED POLITICAL COMMAND. PRESS HEADLINED "UNIFIED POLITICAL COMMAND HEADED BY ASAD AND SADAT; SYRIAN SIDE: AHMAR KHULAYFAWI, KHADDAM, AND TLAS. EGYPTIAN SIDE: MUBARAK SALIM, FAHMI AND GAMASY". EDITORIAL ON FORMATION OF COMMAND STRESSED THAT IT INDICATED RECAPTURE OF "SPIRIT OF OCTOBER AND ASSERTED IT WOULD LEAD TO NEW VICOTIRIES FOR ARAB NATION; MILITARILY AS WELL AS POLITICALLY". ISRAEL ACCUSED OF TRYING "TO FREEZE" POLITICAL SITUATION. UNCLASSIFIED

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2. WALDHEIM VISIT ALSO RECEIVED PROMINENT, IF NOT SPLASHY COVERAGE. WALDHEIM SHOWN IN SEVERAL PHOTOS WITH FONMIN KHADDAM WITH WHOM HE MET AT 1830LT FEB. 4 WITH SEVERAL SYRIAN FONMIN AND U.N. SENIOR STAFF MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE. WALHEIM SAID TO HAVE PUT FORWARD IDEAS RE GENEVA CONFERENCE AND TO HAVE DIS-

CUSSED AIMS OF HIS TOUR. EDITORIAL ON WALDHEIM VISIT ASSERTED HE WILL FIND IN SYRIA "INSISTENT WISH AND GOOD WILL TOWARDS MAKING A CONTRIBUTION THAT WOULD ACCELERATE PEACE STEPS WHICH U.S. HAS ENDORSED".

3. COMMENTARY IN THAWRA ENTITLED "WILL KING HUSSEIN AND YASSAR ARAFAT MEET SOON", ARGUED THAT RESTORATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES IS "NECESSITY. COLUMNIST MUHAMMAD ZUAITAR ATTACKED THOSE REJECTING SUCH A RECONCILIATION AS BEING MOTIVATED BY "PERSONAL FACTORS AND NARROW PRIVATE INTERESTS". HE ASKED RHETORICALLY HOW PALESTINIAN WEST BANK-GAZA SATE COULD BE ENVISIONSED IF IT HOSTILE TO JORDAN AS WELL AS ISRAEL AND PROBABLY LEBANON?

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## Message Attributes

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